

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR



STATE OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMISSION
LANSING

ROBERT MORRIS
CHAIR

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting held August 22, 2008

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Morris, Chair
Michael Prince
Capt. Robert Powers
John Friend
Linda Scarpetta
Steven Puuri
Chief David Stamm
Dwight Sinila
Anne Corgan
Sheriff Al Byam

REPRESENTING

Office of the Governor
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)
Department of State Police (MSP)
Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Department of Community Health (MDCH)
Local Representative
Local Representative
Department of Education (MDOE)
Department of State (MDOS)
Local Representative

STAFF

Deb Sonnenberg

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Pamela Hall

Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)

GUESTS

Patrick Muinch
Sandy Liddle
Homer Smith
Lisa Grost
Carol Reagan
Jim Gaus
Kim Lariviere
James Culp
Bob Felt
Brian Zimmerman
Nicholas Kleinhardt
Tyler Meaton
Steve Palmer
Mark Bott
Peter Broderick
Sydney Smith
Thelma Kuska
Debbie Savage
Kathy Farnum
Piétro Semifero
Pat Carrow
Ken Stecker
Rich Moeller

REPRESENTING

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration-Michigan Division
Financial & Insurance Regulation
MADD Michigan
MDCH
MDOS
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
MDOT
Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA)
MSP-CJIC
NHTSA Region 5, Chicago, Illinois
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
OHSP
Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan (PAAM)
League of Michigan Bicyclist Program

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Community Health
Kenneth Micklash, Department of Education • Anne Corgan, Department of State • Capt. Robert Powers, Michigan State Police •
John C. Friend, Department of Transportation • Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

Chair Robert Morris called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. A Roll Call of the GTSAC members was taken establishing a quorum was present.

Public Comment/Announcement Items

Brian Zimmerman, MDOT Work Zone Operations - Introduced student interns Nicholas Kleinhardt and Tyler Meaton who are working with him this summer analyzing 2007 work zone crash data. Mr. Zimmerman plans to present the results of the crash data analysis at the October GTSAC meeting.

Approval of June 27, 2008 GTSAC Meeting Minutes

Chair Morris entertained a motion made by Captain Powers to approve the June 27, 2008, meeting minutes which was supported by Mr. Puuri. ***Motion Carried.***

REPORTS

▪ Chair's Report – Mr. Robert Morris

Mr. Morris expressed his enthusiasm of the new Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) to continue the progressive and positive movement of the future direction of the GTSAC.

Mr. Morris outlined the Governor's new Alternative Work Schedule option for state employees and inquired of those in attendance if they felt the new work schedule option would necessitate changing the Friday GTSAC meeting day to accommodate attendance and participation. No concern was voiced, thus the Friday meeting schedule will continue.

▪ Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger Absent

Not Available.

▪ GTSAC Commissioner Reports

➤ Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Mr. John Friend

Mr. Friend reported on safety initiatives underway at the MDOT. The rumble strip installation program is well in progress. MDOT produced a video to publicize the benefits of the rumble strips. Copies of the video are available from MDOT. The installation of Cable Guard Rail is progressing around the state. This safety technique is receiving very positive marks from other states. Oklahoma has reported some dramatic results in preventing cross-over median-type accidents.

Transportation Funding Task Force – Formed by Governor to develop a transportation funding plan for the state of Michigan for highways, transit, and aviation. A needs assessment has been completed and dialog progressing on how to meet those needs. The report is due to the Governor in late October.

➤ Department of State (DOS) – Ms. Anne Corgan

MDOS discovered an individual, employed by a bus transportation company in Detroit, who was conducting improper third party testing as a side business. In early 2008, this individual began reporting testing far more people than was physically possible to do in a day. MDOS is reexamining and retesting identified individuals (170 or more) to ensure they have the required skills and endorsements to operate a bus.

Young Driver Program – The cell phone restriction plan has been implemented and MDOS is making every effort to ensure its effectiveness.

Mature Driver Car Fit Events - MDOS partnered with AAA this summer to conduct car-fit events for Mature Drivers. All MDOS driver license reexamination analysts were involved in the program this year to provide them the knowledge to determine the car-fit of drivers before road test reexamination.

Motorcycle Safety – The number of people attending motor cycle training programs continues to increase. Funding from grants has enabled more programs to be conducted and the purchase of 24 new training motor cycles for the public training programs.

Commercial Drivers – A federal grant has enabled MDOS to acquire \$1 million worth of CDL test Kiosks for branch offices. MDOS plans to expand this technology to all license testing.

Occupant Safety – MDOS has posted information on the Booster Seat Law to their Web site with a link to Michigan Safe Kids. The OHSP booster seat video is being loaded to the MDOS Digital 10 Network in branch offices, a booster seat information brochure is now included with license renewal notifications, and What Every Driver Must Know is being revised to include booster seat information.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety – MDOS has updated their Be Safe Be Scene brochure and has made it available in branch offices.

➤ **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Ms. Pamela Hall**
Absent

➤ **Department of Community Health (MDCH) – Ms. Linda Scarpetta**
Several seat checks are scheduled around the state this summer. A third certification course was completed resulting in 21 new technicians and was followed up by a seat check event in that community. The event in East Tawas resulted in 29 car seats inspections, in which 17 seats were given out to replace old or recalled seats.

MDCH is finalizing a law enforcement curriculum that will be piloted in two communities in the upcoming months and will be rolled out in 2009.

MDCH recently held a special health care needs class for health care professionals to instruct how to select the correct seat for children with special health care needs.

Since the passage of the new booster seat law in July, the MDCH has received many calls to clarify the requirements and answer questions. Many callers expressed concern that their vehicle didn't have room to accommodate the number of seats their family required according to the law. Another concern expressed was placing children weighing over 100 pounds in seats only certified for up to 100 pounds.

CPS week is coming up in September.

➤ **Department of Education (MDOE) – Mr. Dwight Sinila**
Mr. Sinila reported the MDOE has primary responsibility of approving the training curriculums for both the supervisors and drivers of school buses. There are approximately 800 transportation supervisors and directors in the state that are periodically required to attend training reviews and updates. The MDOE contracts and oversees 15 training agencies (primarily intermediate school districts and Northern Michigan University) to provide the service. Bus drivers and substitute bus drivers (approximately 20,000) will also be subject to periodic reviews.

The MDOE partnered with AAA Michigan to update their crossing guard program. The curriculum has been approved by MDOE and has been forwarded to the Michigan State Police for their review and approval.

➤ **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**
Coming in the fall, the new reflective vest mandate by FHWA for enforcement officers will take effect which will impact the culture and behavior of using the vests.

Chief Stamm reported on the impact the economy is having on local law enforcement agencies and their level of service to the communities.

➤ **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**
County fairs have kept sheriffs' busy this summer. At the Calhoun County Fair, the Sheriffs' and MSP shared a large booth in which the roll-over device and seat belt convincer were part of the display and drew large crowds.

➤ **Local Representation – Mr. Steven Puuri**

County road commissions are preparing for the upcoming winter season including evaluating projects to possibly eliminate to ensure funding for priority projects. Reduced staffing levels are also the issue with many commissions where vacancies are not being filled.

Transportation legislation introduced this summer includes new avenues for local road agencies to secure funding. The progress of the legislation is being monitored closely by road agencies.

Mr. Puuri discussed fatal accident involving friends where an elderly driver ran a stop sign and hit a vehicle. The elderly driver was uninjured and was back on the road driving the next day. Mr. Puuri expressed his concern of elderly drivers that should not be driving. Ms. Anne Corgan outlined the Department of State's services and how cases concerning driver fitness are handled. Mr. Stecker provided information from a prosecution standpoint. Mr. Stecker will forward Mr. Prince further information to share with Commission members.

Mr. Puuri cited last year's high number of serious early winter accidents and asked if there were any new approaches to educate the public on winter driving practices, or what extra efforts could be made to raise public awareness. Mike Prince stated the OHSP communications staff will consult and work with the MDOT and MSP communications staff to address this issue.

Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers

Operation Road Check - Captain Powers shared the results of the June 3-5, 2008 international Operation Road Check that focused on inspecting the equipment of commercial vehicles. Consistent with statistics from past years the number one out-of-service violation reported was bad brakes and the number one driver safety violations reported continued to be hours-of-service and log book violations.

To address commercial vehicle brake safety, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) is sponsoring an international Brake Safety Awareness Week September 21-27, 2008. All US states, Canadian Provinces, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Guam will participate by providing special enforcement focus brakes. Michigan will be conducting brake safety awareness programs for truck drivers and company officials to promote the importance of properly inspecting and maintaining the brakes of their vehicles.

The second annual Operation Safe Driver event is scheduled for October 19-25, 2008. This event is co-sponsored by the CVSA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to focus more attention on the driver factors (driver errors) that are the major cause of commercial vehicle crashes.

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC) will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in October. The CVSA and FMCSA have been approached to partner with the MTSC in a joint event to highlight the MTSC 20th anniversary in conjunction with the kick-off Operation Safe Driver.

Nine motor carrier officers have resigned and entered the MSP trooper recruit school, one officer resigned to accept other employment, and another officer announced his retirement. These actions increase the shortage of commercial vehicle enforcement officers to 31 which equates to a 20 percent deficit of the authorized strength. The MSP Traffic Safety Division is strategizing to address the staffing shortage and maintain its level of service to ensure commercial vehicle safety.

➤ **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Mr. Michael Prince**

Memorial Day Safety Belt Survey Results - Mr. Prince reported that the post Memorial Day safety belt use survey presented a new high for Michigan at 96.2 percent. Mr. Prince commended the efforts of the law enforcement community, state, county, and local officers for their support. One more safety belt survey will take place following Labor Day. The higher of the two use rates will be reported to NHTSA as Michigan's 2008 rate. It will not be known where Michigan ranks in the country until all states submit their data to NHTSA.

Teen Driving Initiative – The Ford Motor Foundation presented OHSP with a \$20,000 grant for a teen driving initiative. OHSP partnered with the Michigan State Police precision driving facility and staff to host an advanced driver's education camp for teens. The program was a one-day mini version of the Ford Foundation's Driving Skills For Life camps held throughout the country and was designed to serve as a model for other states. A total of 96 teens took part in the two four-hour sessions. A variety of stations provided the teens with the opportunity to enhance their driving skills and abilities. These stations included the GEM car impaired driving course, hands-on vehicle maintenance instruction, registration on Ford's Driving Skills for Life Web site, and exercises behind the wheel of an actual patrol car in skid control, off-road recovery, and speed and space management.

The Over the Limit. Under Arrest. enforcement crackdown began August 15 and ends September 1. Nearly 350 agencies in 55 counties are taking part utilizing funds provided through OHSP. Six media events were held around the state this week highlighting "Sobriety Courts" and the positive role they are having in changing driver behavior particular drivers with serious drinking or substance abuse issues. Michigan is one of the leading states in the country with sobriety counts.

Mr. Prince and Jason Hamblen of OHSP joined Homer Smith at the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan (PAAM) conference to present the MADD Life Savers award. The award was developed by MADD and is sponsored by the OHSP to recognize the attorney who has made a significant difference in impaired driving prosecutions over the last year. This year's award was presented to Kristin Bakker, assistant prosecutor for Gratiot County, for her efforts in securing a conviction in an impaired driving fatal crash in Gratiot County. Although the BAC of the at-fault driver was .04, she was able to achieve a conviction on an OUIL Causing Death charge.

The second award winner was David Wallace. He received the William VanRegenmorter award for his work in Michigan as the first Traffic Safety Research Prosecutor and helping Michigan achieve reductions in traffic crash fatalities over the last several years. Mr. Wallace now holds a position with the National Association of DUI Courts. Mr. Ken Stecker now holds that position with PAAM. Michigan is one of the model states for the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor program that now has over 40 such positions in states around the country.

OHSP staff attended three Tiger baseball games this summer to promote safe driving among Tiger Fans. The names of fans signing a pledge to always wear their safety belts and to not drink and drive were entered into a drawing to win tickets to an upcoming Tiger game.

OHSP staff will be at the Michigan State Fair for six days to provide information and promote the use of booster seats. Four drawings will be held each day for free booster seats and the booster seat public service announcement will be airing on the mobile television screens positioned around the fair grounds.

The Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is scheduled for March 24-26, 2009, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. It is not too late to submit suggestions for workshop topics and speakers. The topic suggestion form can be downloaded from the OHSP Web site.

- **Action Team Reports**
Suspended During SHSP Development Process

- **Miscellaneous Reports**

High Visibility Enforcement Pilot Project Update – Ms. Debbie Savage/OHSP

Over the July 4 holiday, a High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) project was pilot tested in southwest Michigan. This project was the first attempt to combine impaired driving enforcement with nighttime safety belt enforcement. Ms. Savage provided an overview of the project and the enforcement data resulting from it. Mr. Prince added that the HVE concept is a nationally identified strategic effort that OHSP will continue to explore as an enforcement option in 2009.

OHSP has plans to develop a law enforcement guide and training video outlining the concept and mission behind conducting HVEs.

GTSAC Traffic Safety Awards Selection Process – Ms. Debbie Savage/OHSP

Ms. Savage highlighted the changes incorporated into the 2008 nomination form and the decision to reduce the number of awards from 15 to 12. The deadline for submitting nominations has been moved up to November 8 to accommodate the selection committee's review and consideration. The nomination form will soon be mailed out and made available on the OHSP and GTSAC Web sites.

ACTION ITEMS

- **League of Michigan Bicyclist Program Partnership – Mr. Rich Moeller/LMB**

Mr. Moeller presented an overview of a training program for Michigan's law enforcement community, patterned after a program used in Illinois, developed to educate enforcement members on bicycle laws and increase enforcement of bicyclists and motorists in violation of these laws.

Ms. Lisa Grost, chair of the Pedestrian Bicycle Action Team, requested the Commissioners' endorsement of the Action Team partnering with the LMB to promote and develop safety awareness programs and initiatives. Providing the Action Team approves an initiative, and the Commissioners are aware of what the Team is proposing, the Commissioners voiced no objection to the partnership of the Action Team and the LMB. *(Note: This decision does not provide the GTSAC's endorsement of the LMB or its programs, or their use of the GTSAC logo.)*

- **Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update and Approval – Ms. Kathy Farnum/OHSP**

Ms. Farnum highlighted the revisions made to the SHSP since the Commissioners' last review.

Chair Morris entertained a motion by Captain Powers and supported by Mr. Prince to approve the SHSP with the revisions/corrections as discussed and agreed upon, and to empowering the Action Teams to make any changes they deem necessary to their portion. Motion Carried.

Ms. Farnum announced that an Action Team chair meeting is scheduled for September 4, to address crash data usage, incorporating EMS, utilizing a template for action plans, use of tracking software to track action plan implementation progress, and the reporting out process at GTSAC meetings.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Federal Highway Final Rule on Worker and Law Enforcement Visibility – Mr. Jim Gaus/MDOT**

Mr. Gaus provided an overview of the new federal rule requiring all workers/law enforcement/EMS to wear High Visibility apparel, apparel options, and what can be done to move compliance forward.

Mr. Prince stated that federal funding to purchase the vests would only be approved for those working OHSP funded enforcement zones. Other funding resources may be available, i.e., Sheriffs could possibly use SRP funding.

- **Rumble Strip Video – Mr. John Friend/MDOT**

Mr. Friend aired the MDOT Rumble Strip Video developed to promote the safety benefits of rumble strips.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.